Northwick Lodge
Harrow-on-the-Hill
Thurs June 2s 1955

P.S.
I've been reading old Laurie Binyon's trans. of Dante Have you ever had a look at it?

Dearest René

It is a great apology I owe you for not writing all this time. I've thought about you & Joan a lot. But in particular I wanted to thank you for that thing you wrote about my Tate Exhibition in The Studio.

Thank you very much — I liked it & especially I liked the end bit where you say that just as 'fragments of an attempted writing' is a true description of The Ana. So, mutatis mutandis, is it true of my collected paintings. ~~[illegible]~~ I've always ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ felt that, or something like it very much. Thank you again. And now thanks you for getting Sheed & W. to send me a copy of yr St Louis which I've read most of now. It's grand. I enjoyed it very much & I liked awfully the language. I don't think I like ~~St~~ Louis very much *① but I like the character of Joinville himself as displayed in his own words awfully. I like him a lot. I was very interested in the military stuff — God! — what a mess it

That's a wonderful bit on p. 99, Ch. LX about the priest fainting at the sacring of the mass — it reminds me of Malory where Launcelot is at the door of the chapel & wants to help the priest — you remember the bit.

Do you know where I can get a copy of yr trans. of Roland??

① * In fact I know I don't. I can't stand something about him. He's got a streak of 'muscular Xtianity' almost, and there is something very ~~[illegible]~~ extravert — well that's a damn silly thing to have said — but something of that sort — but I expect it's the whole 'Crusades' thing that I can't really get right ⊛

⊛ I mean I don't mind the wars of the Crusades if one thinks of them as ordinary wars between rival culture-groups or power-groups or races or commercial interest ~~[illegible]~~ but I've never really understood the religious aspect. St Bernard? — What do you think?

as we say in D.P. 'It's a monumental bollocks every time.'

all was. It must have been absolutely ghastly arsing around in that bloody Delta. — I knew where Mansura is well but feeling it was very different then.

I liked ~~[illegible]~~ that old Muslim who came ~~[illegible]~~ to the captured knights on p. 108, section 337. That stuff in Ch. LVIII sounds very grim. I wonder what 'camp fever' may have been? I don't like the sound of those carnivorous eels. The boys seemed to take the Friday fish rule pretty seriously I notice.

I listened with great enjoyment a little back to yr broadcast on E.G.R. Taylor's book. It was a most interesting & clearly expressed broadcast. How are you? ①* I'm feeling very much under the weather. ~~Wa~~ No news really. This is really only to send my love & to ask yr pardon for my not writing ~~[illegible]~~ for all this time. Desmond C. came to see me a bit back, He'd been to Pigotts but missed you I think he said. I was most delighted to see him again for I'd not done so since circa 1938. I think of you very, very often & hope you are pretty all right in spite of all things. I often think of ~~[illegible]~~ past times & the jokkoes of one sort or another we had.

Again a great lot of thanks for the article in The Studio (what a bloody awful magazine it is, by the way!) & for the St Louis. God bless you & Joan much love to you yours ever Dai

① * Some of this 'essential ill-will' I expect: I wonder where the old chap is now? Talking of Irish priests I had a real go at Finnegans Wake a bit back. It's a hard nut to crack. The Anna Livia part seems to remain both the most lyrical & the 'easiest' to follow.

I've a had a nice letter fr Edith Sitwell about The Anathemata. I was surprised she liked it and she's going to use [illegible] section I Rite & Foretime, to include in an anthology she's compiling.

Dorothea came to see me a week or so back. She lives in Clifden in Galway in the West of Ireland. Just the same. She asks after Joan & you.

On p. 193 (Section 658) the stuff about ~~the~~ monks out of cloister is exactly like that bit in Chaucer's prologue isn't it.